AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

1. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving a first request to provide a requested service, wherein

the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

a module performing said receiving the first request is configured to receive the first request from a plurality of source types, and

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node;

providing the first request to a language parser configured to parse the first language;

obtaining results of parsing the first request from the language parser;

selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the requested service, wherein

each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service,

at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service, and

said selecting the first device is performed in response to said obtaining the results of parsing the first request; and

converting the first request to a second request, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language,

the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

directing the second request to the first device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein

the first language is a markup language;

the second language is a device-specific language of a plurality of device-specific languages, wherein

each of the plurality of devices communicates using one of the plurality of device-specific languages.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the request formats comprise:

at least one instruction, and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

specifying use of a specific feature of the first device, wherein

said specifying use of the specific feature comprises specifying an optional variable and providing a value for the optional variable, and

said converting the first request to the second request comprises

including the optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request, and

including the value for the optional variable in the data of the second request.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

sending a response to the first request, wherein

the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the response format comprises:

at least one instruction; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

9. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a first request to provide a requested service, wherein

the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

the receiving means is configured to receive the first request from a plurality of source types, and

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node;

parsing means for parsing the first request formatted in the first language;

obtaining means for obtaining results of said parsing means;

selecting means for selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the requested service, wherein

each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service,

at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service, and

the selecting means performs said selecting the first device in response to said obtaining means obtaining the results of parsing the first request; and

converting means for converting the first request to a second request, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language,

the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9 further comprising:

directing means for directing the second request to the first device.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the request formats comprise:

at least one instruction, and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 further comprising:

first including means for including an optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request; and

second including means for including a value of the optional variable in the data of the second request, wherein

the optional variable and the value specify use of a specific feature of the first device.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9 further comprising:

sending means for sending a response to the first request, wherein

the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the response format comprises:

at least one instruction; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

16. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

receiving instructions to receive a first request to provide a requested service, wherein

the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

the receiving instructions are further configured to receive the first request from a plurality of source types, and

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node;

providing instructions to provide the first request to a language parser configured to parse the first language;

obtaining instructions for obtaining results of parsing the first request from the language parser;

selecting instructions to select a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the requested service, wherein

each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service,

at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service, and

the selecting instructions are responsive to the obtaining the results of parsing the first request; and

converting instructions to convert the first request to a second request in a request format defined in a second language, wherein

the second request conforms to the second language, and

the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to

receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

17. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16 further comprising:

directing instructions to direct the second request to the first device.

18. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, wherein the request formats comprise:

at least one instruction, and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

19. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18 further comprising:

first including instructions to include an optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request; and

second including instructions to include a value of the optional variable in the data of the second request, wherein

the optional variable and the value specify use of a specific feature of the first device.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16 further comprising:

sending instructions for sending a response to the first request, wherein

the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.

22. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the response format comprises:

at least one instruction; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

23. (Previously presented) A computer system comprising:

a processor configured to execute instructions;

a plurality of devices coupled to the computer system, wherein

each device is configured to perform a corresponding service; and

a memory, coupled to the processor, and configured to store the instructions, wherein

the instructions comprise

receiving instructions to receive a first request to provide a service, wherein

the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

the receiving instructions are further configured to receive the first request from a plurality of source types,

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node, and

at least two devices of the plurality of devices provide the service;

providing instructions to provide the first request to a language parser configured to parse the first language;

obtaining instructions to obtain results of parsing the first request from the language parser;

identifying instructions to identify a first device of the at least two devices to provide the service, wherein

the identifying instructions are responsive to the obtaining the results of parsing the first request; and

converting instructions to convert the first request to a second request in a second language, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in the second language, and

the first device is configured to provide the service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

24. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the instructions further comprise:

directing instructions to direct the second request to the first device.

25. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the request format comprises

at least one instruction, and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

26. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 25 wherein the instructions further comprise:

first including instructions to include an optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request; and

second including instructions to include a value of the optional variable in the data of the second request, wherein

the optional variable and the value specify use of a specific feature of the first device.

27. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the instructions further comprise:

sending instructions for sending a response to the first request.

28. (Original) The computer system of claim 27 wherein

the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.

29. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 28 wherein

the response format comprises:

at least one instruction; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

30. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a first request to provide a service, wherein

the first request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

the receiving module is further configured to receive the first request from a plurality of source types,

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node,

at least two devices of a plurality of devices are configured to provide the service, and

the plurality of devices is coupled to the system;

a language parsing module configured to parse the first language, wherein

the first request is provided to the language parsing module;

an identifying module configured to identify a first device of the at least two devices to provide the service, wherein

the identifying module is responsive to the language parsing module parsing the first request; and

a converting module configured to convert the first request to a second request in a second language, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in the second language, and

the first device is configured to provide the service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 further comprising:

a directing module to direct the second request to the first device.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31 wherein

the request formats comprise:

at least one instruction; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32 further comprising:

a first including module to include an optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request; and

a second including module to include a value of the optional variable in the data of the second request, wherein

the optional variable and the value specify use of a specific feature of the first device.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 further comprising:

a sending module for sending a response to the first request, wherein

the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 35 wherein

the response format comprises:

at least one instruction; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

37-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein

the plurality of source types comprises a magnetic card reader.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a third request to provide a second requested service, wherein

the third request conforms to the request format defined in the first language,

said receiving the third request is performed by the module in the computer system,

providing the third request to the language parser;

obtaining results of parsing the third request from the language parser;

selecting a second device of the plurality of devices to provide the second requested service, wherein

said selecting the second device is performed in response to said obtaining the results of parsing the third request; and

converting the third request to a fourth request, wherein

the fourth request conforms to a request format defined in a third language,

the second device is configured to provide the second requested service in response to receiving the fourth request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the third language.

42. (**Currently amended**) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two devices configured to provide the requested service comprise:

the first device, wherein

the first device is configured to provide the requested service, and

the first device comprises a first application program interface (API) configured to receive instructions in a first device-specific native language; and

a second device, wherein

the second device is configured to provide the requested service,

the second device comprises a second API configured to receive instructions in a second device-specific native language, **[[and]]**

the second device-specific native language is distinct from the first device-specific native language**, and**

the second device is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two devices configured to provide the requested service comprise:

the first device, wherein

the first device is produced by a first vendor;

a second device, wherein

the second device is produced by a second vendor;

the second vendor is distinct from the first vendor.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

adding a new device to the plurality of devices; and

coupling the new device to the language parser, wherein

the new device is configured to provide the requested service.

45. (**Currently amended**) The method of claim 43, wherein**:**

the first device is the new device**;**

the second request conforms to requests generated using a dynamic link library (DLL) provided by the first vendor;

the second device is incompatible with requests generated using the DLL provided by the first vendor.